



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

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Notice of New Observer Program for the South Atlantic Shrimp Fishery

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) would like to inform shrimp vessel owners and operators in the South Atlantic of a new observer program focused on the shrimp fishery of the South Atlantic region. NOAA Fisheries Service is working to improve the quality of information available for the South Atlantic penaeid (white, pink, and brown) and rock shrimp fisheries. Having appropriate and current data enables the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries Service to carry out responsive and timely fisheries management.

As part of these data collection activities, NOAA Fisheries Service will begin placing observers aboard federally permitted shrimp vessels in the South Atlantic region. Vessels will be randomly chosen to carry a NOAA Fisheries Service-approved observer on selected trips. Observers will collect catch, effort, bycatch, and other scientific information, as necessary. Vessel owners will be

compensated \$25 per day to defray direct costs of carrying the observer. Permit holders must have or obtain a Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination decal prior to the time the observer is scheduled to be aboard the vessel. Observer deployment aboard South Atlantic penaeid shrimp vessels will occur in two periods in 2008, starting in June and September. There will be one deployment period in 2008 for the rock shrimp fishery beginning in July. Vessel owners will be notified by certified letter if they are chosen to carry an observer. Please direct any questions to Elizabeth Scott-Denton at 409-766-3571.

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of future fishery bulletins please contact:

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